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RECEIVED

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia SC 29210

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MAIL / DMS

RE: Docket Number 2011-47-WS

To Whom It May Concern:

Once again the Yankee Firm of Utilities Inc. which is the parent company of Carolina Water Service has hired some self-serving carpetbagger lawyer to try to convince you to try to raise our rates by 80%. Even in their letter to us they discuss in these hard times, Yes, times are hard. Unemployment in South Carolina is still at about 10%. The housing market is still in the sewer. People are doing without a lot of things to make ends meet and now these Yankees want to burden us with a rate increase. Has nothing changed since Reconstruction?

Well let's talk about water. Over 90% of our planet is water. If you drill down far enough you'll hit water and you can put in a well. Thus we can conclude water is necessary and can be easily found.

With this in mind, I'd like to address the idea of Fair Market Value. For example, if a man wanted to purchase a long sleeve, button down, Ralph Lauren dress shirt, then it doesn't matter where you buy the shirt because the Fair Market Value is \$68.00.

I propose we do the same with water and sewage. We should average what West Columbia, Columbia, the city of Lexington charges then we might have an idea of the Fair Market Value.

I find it very interesting that I live in 1375 sq ft house with two full baths, a washer (used once a week), a dish washer, kitchen sink and my bill is \$85.00 for water and sewage. Yet my Dad who lives in Florence in a 3200 sq ft house with two full baths, 4 half baths, 2 of the half baths are joined to a shower, sink in kitchen, dishwasher, sink in utility room, washer (which is used 5 days a week) and his combined bill is \$35.00. I see a \$50.00 problem for over 2 times the size of my house!

Now these Bozos are going to yell these are municipalities we can't compete with them. In 1996, when I was an intervener I asked for reasons why CWS could not compete with a municipality. I never got an answer. So I'm asking again and like the lawyer in the movie Philadelphia would say explain it to me like I was a 6th grader.

Currently CWS purchases their water from West Columbia and the residents of Oak Grove get a sir-charge slapped on plus a distribution charge. When they feel they have not collected their just due The Company sends out the "we must catch up letters" without going through the PSC first.

As far as their coming into compliance with the EPA, I see this as the cost of doing business. Ted who owns Flight Deck Restaurant has to make sure his restaurant passes a surprise health inspection, repair toilets, fix any problems that come up, and recently a Federal law has been handed down that requires waiters/waitress make at least the minimum wage with tips, and if not he has to increase the amount paid per hour. Well Ted has been doing this for years because it is the cost of doing business and never does it show on his prices. His prices go up when food items go up.

So when CWS says they made improvements to their wells, lines, are in EPA guide lines these are things they had to do anyway. It's the cost of doing business and this plea for reimbursement should be scrapped.

CWS also has no office in West Columbia anymore. When they did I left numerous messages for the GM. I guess she thinks she's too good to speak to those who help pay her salary. Her assistant talked to me one time. The bill I showed her, she said was a \$60.00 overcharge by CWS, but I still had to pay it – "would you like to set up payments?" Thus the whole consumer service department sucks.

The Flat Sewage Fee soaks the wallets of every home owner. Most people pay a Fair Market Value combined water and sewage and is lower than my bill. I have been to municipalities to see how they treat the sewage. Some plants retreat it so it can be used as a liquid fertilizer and I've seen this done and the results are outstanding. Which brings to question does CWS have a sewage refinery plant? If not, why not? If they did they could look into doing a co-op with some farmer and maybe make money that way.

I know SCE&G is asking for a rate increase and I hope it is turned down. I bring this up because CWS slick carpetbagger lawyer will ask "why all the fuss SCE&G is asking for a rage increase?"

The fuss is SCE&G may get a rate increase now but there have been times like 6 months later they'll ask for a rate decrease; can CWS say they've done the same? SCE&G helps sponsor events in the community, they will come to your homes to show you how to save on your bill can CWS say they do the same?

SCE&G has a local number, local office, with local people you can talk to about problems; CWS does not.

Now let's summarize. CWS doesn't charge a Fair Market Value for it's Water and Sewage. They will not explain why they can't compete with municipalities, they have no local office. They don't give back to the community; they have never asked for a rate reduction. In short CWS is little more than an over priced water whore. It is time for them to go!

In conclusion it is time for a rate reduction not increase. We deserve a Fair Market Value for something God himself provided-Water. We deserve a Fair Market Value on a combined price of Water and Sewage and no Flat Rate on sewage. We are the ones who deserve Rate Relief.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael C Watford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael C Watford